

HB 240 FBCLer N61a

EXHIBIT 2

DATE 1.26.07

HB 240

Bill -

Here's some bulleted points regarding the numbers served:

* According to my conversations with the Salvation Army, Red Cross, and YWCAs, last year in Montana organizations serving domestic violence and natural disaster victims provided approximately 500 nights of motel. We can assume that we've missed some of the nights that were provided by domestic violence programs in small communities and bump that number up to 600, which is a very generous number based on my experience five years ago as the director of the statewide domestic violence coalition.

* There are 17 domestic violence shelters in the state, and only three of them experience overflow problems on a regular basis (Billings, Missoula, and Great Falls.) Last year these three programs combined provided 90 motel nights to survivors.

* The small rural communities that don't have shelters can be expected to use motel rooms for 1 - 3 nights until they can transport victims to the nearest shelter. HB 240 is unlikely to change this practice because even with 5 nights in a motel victims will still need to transfer to a nearby shelter for a longer term stay.

* Domestic violence programs serve male victims of domestic violence in motel rooms rather than shelters. Men account for less than 5% of our clients, though, and last year the YWCA Missoula served three men in motels. Statewide this will not have a significant impact on the number of rooms used. I think we could expect less than 20 men being served in motels in a year. At 5 nights per person, this could add up to 100 nights per year.

* The organizations serving natural disaster victims have not tied their services to funding streams. They have served all the victims in need. Last year the Red Cross provided 340 motel nights for an average of 2 - 3 nights per stay. I think we can assume that they will be more likely to provide victims with 5 nights lodging if HB240 passes, and therefore the total nights may rise to as much as 840/yr.

* If we assume a threefold increase in the numbers served over last year, the number of motel nights provided jumps to 1,800. At an average of \$75/room, this would total \$135,000 annually.

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